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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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***Carson Appointed By Democratic Leadership To Rural Working Group  
Oklahoma Democrat Wants Party To Have More Appeal To Rural  
Issues/Voters***

Washington, D.C. --

Eastern Oklahoma Congressman Brad Carson (D-OK) was appointed today by House Democratic Leadership to be a formal adviser to the Democratic caucus on issues effecting rural America. Congressman Carson's appointment to the Rural Working Group will allow the Oklahoma Congressman to help develop the Democratic Party's legislative priorities to guarantee that rural America has more of a voice in Congress.

The mission of the weekly group is to both ensure that the concerns of rural constituents are heard by the House Democratic leadership, most of whom are from urban areas, and help the House leadership understand how to broaden the party's electoral appeal to rural voters.

"I see this appointment as a real opportunity to move our party in a direction that appeals to rural Oklahoma," said Congressman Carson. "I strongly believe that as a party we have to communicate our message to rural voters more convincingly. Rural Democrats need to speak out and move our party in a direction that lets the folks who live in rural America know they have a home in the Democratic Party. They value better education for their children, Social Security protection for their Mom and Dad, preservation of their right to own a gun and that is what rural Democrats in Congress believe as well."

Upon creation of the group, Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) said, "The Rural Working Group was created to give members from rural America an opportunity to communicate their perspectives and have input as we formulate policies and legislation. Rural districts have unique needs and priorities and as we develop our message and agenda, it is critical that rural constituencies are heard."

"I'm committed to voicing the concerns and issues of my constituents in rural Oklahoma throughout the halls of Congress and in my party," said Congressman Carson. "I think the formation of this Rural Working Group is a terrific idea by leadership in the

Democratic Party that understands those in New York City can't speak for people who live in Muskogee or Tishomingo. Recently the Democratic Party has been a lot more New York and a lot less Muskogee, and I plan on changing that perception."

House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi named Burns Strider, a native of Mississippi, to serve as a liaison to the working group so that members could have someone to respond quickly to their needs and concerns and communicate their priorities to the Leadership.

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